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to be expressed in the following terms: Leaves in drying under uniform lateral pressure shrink in all parts around and toward the geographical center of the mass of tissue composing its framework. A more general and condensed form of this law is: Leaves in drying under pressure shrink towards the mass-center of the framework. BYRON D. HALSTED.

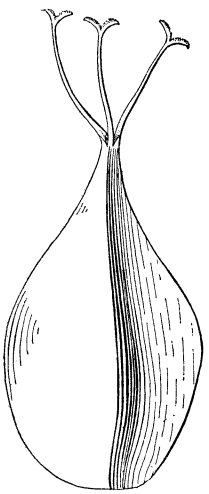
Morphological Notes on the Genus Brunnichia.

The following lines are intended to correct several errors recorded in the works of our leading authorities on genera. Being engaged in a study of some of the Polygonaceæ, the mistakes cited below attracted my attention. They seem to have been made by Endlicher in his Genera Plantarum and are apparently being perpetuated by later writers.



1. *The Calyx of Brunnichia.* Endlicher (Genera Plantarum, 310) says in regard to this: "Perigonium quinquepartitum, laciniis oblongis apice conniventibus." According to Bentham and Hooker (Genera Plantarum 3: 103) we should find "Perianthium 5-fidum lobis conniventibus," while Baillon records this: "Sepala 5, 6, oblonga circa fructum conniventibus." (Hist. Pl. 11: 393). All these descriptions are given in the place of Bank's original. "Calyx revolutis." (Gærtn. Fr. et Sem. 1: 214) or some corresponding phrase, which is the correct interpretation of the fact. The figure on Gaertner's table 45 is also correct.

In all probability the error arose by these authors taking their diagnoses from dried or dead specimens. In the living plant the segments of the calyx are revolute or reflexed, and it is only when they die or are dried that the segments converge. However, if soaked in water the calyx-lobes will take their natural position. This I have verified by all the specimens at hand.



2. *The Stigmas of Brunnichia.* — The three authors mentioned above have also given a very misleading interpretation of the stigmas of the genus under consideration. Endlicher (Genera Plantarum, 310) describes them as "Stigmata capitata, emarginata." Bentham and Hooker (Genera Plantarum, 3: 103) say, "Styli 3 . . . apice capitato-stigmatosi," and Baillon (Hist. Pl. 11: 393) gives, "Styli ramis 3, apice capitato stigmatoso." Again, these erroneous descriptions have been republished and convey a wrong idea. Here, too, Banks was correct in saying (Gærtn. Fr. et Sem. 1: 214), "Stigmatibus bifidis." This is the right interpretation, as the stigmas are simply two-cleft, a fact brought out by even a casual examination. This, too, I have confirmed by an examination of the specimens in the Columbia College Herbarium.

The accompanying figures explain themselves.

JOHN K. SMALL.

Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 31ST, 1894.

The Rev. Mr. Lighthipe in the chair and thirty-five persons present.

Mr. Charles L. Pollard, of New York, and Mr. Morris E. Leeds, of Philadelphia, were elected active members.

Upon motion by Dr. Rusby, the Section on Cryptogams, Committee on Local Flora, was requested to devise and submit to the Club a plan for the preparation of a check-list of North American Cryptogams, similar to that on Phanerogams authorized by the Rochester meeting of the A. A. A. S., and based upon the same rules of nomenclature, together with an estimate of the cost of the same.